



MEDIA RELEASE

FELONY BATTERY SUSPECT ARRESTED

SANTA BARBARA, CA – February 9, 2012

On February 5, 2012 at approximately 1:17 a.m., Officer Eric Rosenberg was dispatched to a call of a battery that had just occurred in the parking lot of the Santa Barbara News-Press at 715 Anacapa Street. The actual location of the incident was the adjacent Santa Barbara City Hall parking lot at 735 Anacapa Street, which is commonly used for public parking after business hours. The caller described a suspect vehicle leaving the scene as a white Lexus and provided a license plate number. Officer Rosenberg responded to the scene and found Alexander George Milovich, 26-years old, unconscious and convulsing with a seizure, with blood on his face and on the ground. Paramedics responded and transported Milovich to Cottage Hospital where he was later admitted to the ICU with a broken nose, skull fracture, and brain bleed.

Officer Mark Corbett located the suspect vehicle being driven a few blocks away. A high-risk traffic stop was conducted and four occupants were detained. Officer Kody Cardana contacted the witness who was brought to the scene of the traffic stop; the witness positively identified Tyler Zamora Lopez, 23-years old, as the party who struck Milovich. Lopez was arrested for felony battery resulting in great bodily injury and was booked at Santa Barbara County Jail with bail set at \$50,000. The driver of the suspect vehicle, Nicolas Gabriel Ramirez, 31-years old, was found to be DUI and in possession of a small quantity of marijuana. He was cited and released. An unloaded .22 magnum caliber revolver, nine rounds of ammunition, and one spent cartridge casing were located inside of the vehicle during an inventory search prior to it being towed. Those items were booked at SBPD for safekeeping.

Due to the nature of his injuries Milovich was initially unable to provide a statement to police. He was later interviewed at his home by Detective Charlie Katsapis on February 8, 2012. One consequence of

Milovich's brain injury is that it has affected his ability to recall aspects of the evening when he was hurt. Milovich was released from Cottage Hospital and is being cared for by his family. He is expected to make a full recovery.

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